

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1157

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ECEVIT, BULENT) OEXC, TU

SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. BY BULENT ECEVIT

REF ANKARA 1040

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER HALUK ULMAN CALLED EMBASSY FEBRUARY 12 TO SAY THAT A CHANGE IN THE LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE HAD UNFORUNATELY FORCED ECEVIT TO DELAY INDEFINITELY HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. ULMAN EXPLAINED THAT ECEVIT HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED TRAVELLING DURING THE FIRST HALF OF MARCH BECAUSE HE HAD ANTICIPATED THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE IN TEMPORARY RECESS AT THAT TIME. THIS RECESS WAS PREDICATED ON THE EXPECTED PASSAGE BY A JOINT SENATE-ASSEMBLY SESSION FEBRUARY 12 OR 13 OF A MOTION TO SET UP AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE T LOOK INTO ALLEGED FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES OF A NEPHEW OF PRIMIN DEMERIL.

2. THE SENATE, UPON COMPLETION OF ITS DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FEBRUARY 11 VOTED TO GO INTO TEMPORARY RECESS, HOWEVER, THUS PRECLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A JOINT SENATE-ASSEMBLY SESSION FEBRUARY 12 OR 13. THE ASSEMBLY WILL BEGIN ITS DEBATE ON THE BUDGET FEBRUARY 16. SINCE WORK ON THE BUDGET MUST BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO MARCH 1, THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE TOTALLY OCCUPIED AND THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOR A JOINT SESSION TO CONSIDER THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WILL BE IN EARLY MARCH. ULMAN SAID THE RPP IS DETERMINED NOT TO ALLOW FURTHER SLIPPAGE AND WILL NOW INSIST THAT THE

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ASSEMBLY TAKE UP THE INVESTIGATORY MOTION IMMEDIATELY AFTER

THE BUDGET DEBATE RATHER THAN TAKE A TEMPORARY RECESS. SINCE ECEVIT IS THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (AND ORGANIZER OF THE ANTI-DEMIREL MOVEMENT) HIS PRESENCE IN THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE RPP EFFORT. THEREFORE, HE HAS DECIDED THAT UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO POSTPONE HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. ULMAN ASSURED EMBOFF THAT THE CHANGE IN LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE WAS THE SOLE AND TOTAL REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT. HE PROMISED TO CALL AGAIN IN EARLY MARCH TO TRY TO ARRANGE A NEW SCHEDULE.

3. EMBASSY DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE OF DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN ARRANGING SUITABLE SCHEDULE FOR ECEVIT AND WE REGRET VERY MUCH THE INVONVENIENCE THAT THIS POSTPONEMENT CREATES FOR ALL CONCERNED.
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